

EMERGENCY DISEASE PROGRAM ALERT

**Animal Health and Food Safety Services
Animal Health Branch**

Bovine Tuberculosis in Michigan - February 2000 -

What is Bovine Tuberculosis?

Bovine tuberculosis (TB) is a serious disease caused by a bacterium that mainly affects the respiratory system. Bovine TB can infect most mammals, including people. An eradication program for bovine TB has been in effect in the US since the early 1900's. All states, except zones within Texas and Michigan, are free of TB in livestock. The discovery of TB in wildlife in Michigan has been a major setback for the eradication program.

Where is the Infection in Michigan?

In 1975, a wild white-tailed deer from Alcona County was found infected with bovine TB, and in 1994 an infected wild white-tailed deer was found in Alpena County. To assess the extent of infection, wildlife and livestock surveys were done. In 1995, bovine TB was determined to be endemic in wild white-tailed deer in the northeastern Lower Peninsula of Michigan. Since 1995, about 35,000 deer statewide have been tested for TB, and 281 deer have been confirmed with TB-infection. Bovine TB has also been found in coyotes, raccoons, a black bear, a red fox and a bobcat. Recently, deer infected with bovine TB have been found outside the known infected area.

Map showing the Bovine TB Affected Areas in Michigan



What is Michigan Doing?

The Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) began testing all livestock in the area where TB had been identified in deer. They have tested more than 50,000 cattle and goats on about 1,100 farms. Four beef cattle herds and one captive deer farm have been found infected with bovine TB, and have been depopulated. A dairy cattle herd has just been confirmed affected with bovine TB, and an additional beef cattle herd is awaiting final test results.

The area affected with bovine TB has been **quarantined** by the MDA. This restricts the movement of all livestock out of the area. Michigan authorities have also been working with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to split the state into two official bovine TB control zones. This would allow livestock to move to other states from the "Free Zone" without a prior TB test. However, the discovery of bovine TB in deer outside the quarantine area has raised new challenges and concerns, and the USDA is currently evaluating Michigan's bovine TB status.

Multiple agencies are working together to develop management strategies for controlling and eradicating bovine TB in Michigan. Surveillance continues in livestock, wild white-tailed deer and other wildlife throughout Michigan, and authorities are working hard to eradicate TB.

What is California Doing?

The USDA declared California free of bovine TB in October 1999. The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) has been very concerned about bovine TB in wildlife since 1995, when the disease was found endemic in wild white-tailed deer. Bovine TB was originally found in deer within four counties in Michigan, which extended to five counties in 1997. Michigan quarantined these counties, with a buffer zone, and required livestock to be TB tested before moving out of the area. Therefore, CDFA did not require Michigan animals to be TB tested before entering California.

Infected deer have now been found outside the quarantine zone, in a total of eleven Michigan counties, and an affected dairy herd has just been confirmed. Because infected wildlife may have exposed livestock to TB outside the quarantine area, CDFA is tracing all

breeding cattle imported into California from Michigan over the last two years and testing these animals for bovine TB. The CDFA will require future shipments of cattle, bison, goats and captive cervidae from Michigan to be from herds tested negative for bovine TB.

Imported animals will also require a negative TB test within 30 days before their arrival in California, and will be retested within 60-120 days after arrival (90-120 days for cervidae). This plan will help protect California livestock from bovine TB being reintroduced into our state.

The CDFA continues to work with Michigan to assess the risks of bovine TB from animals imported into California from Michigan. As the disease status changes in Michigan, CDFA's strategies to protect California from bovine TB may also change.

For Additional Information Call:

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